

the state

Mexico lures U.S. gamblers

United Press International
CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico — Sports gambling is spreading along the Mexico side of the border. Officials predict that by next year, Mexican book and lottery offices will be operating across from nearly every major American border city to accept bets on horse races, soccer, and American professional football and baseball.

For decades, pari-mutuel horse race tracks in Tijuana, across from San Diego, Calif., and in Ciudad Juarez, across the Rio Grande from El Paso, were the only Mexican centers to attract American gambling dollars.

Also, a horserace book has operated for years at the Turf Club in Ciudad Juarez. Recently a lottery on Mexican professional soccer, called ROGOL, was added and plans are underway to take lottery bets on American major league baseball, football, American professional basketball, PROTOUCH, and horse races, PRODERBY, according to Sotomayor Cuellar.

Sotomayor is the authorizing agent for one of seven Ciudad Juarez soccer lotteries and operates the business at the Turf Club. He predicts that unless the Mexican government changes its plans, similar betting in the next year will be taking place all along the 1,933-mile U.S.-Mexico border.

Proof of the move to expanding Mexican gambling within easy driving distance of millions of Americans came with the opening in September of a horserace book in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, across from Laredo where hundreds of Texans are placing bets

on horse races run at a dozen U.S. tracks and the Mexico city track.

Officials of the Nuevo Laredo turf club say they, too, will add lotteries on Mexican soccer and American baseball and football. They plan to open branches in Matamoros, Reynosa and Piedras Negras, across the Rio Grande respectively from the Texas border cities of Brownsville, McAllen and Eagle Pass.

Sotomayor said the Mexican soccer lottery, limited to Mexico City when it began a year ago, now takes bets in Ciudad Juarez, Mexicali and Tijuana. The Mexican government underestimated demand and many applicants are having to wait for their concessions because of a shortage of special lottery cash registers, he said.

The sports lottery "is going to go to all border cities," Sotomayor said. Most of the betting parlors are being strategically located within walking distance of border crossings for easy accessibility to betting Americans.

Although a strike of referees in Mexico's major soccer league allowed betting only on second-division Mexican teams and soccer teams in Chile, Colombia, Argentina and Brazil until September, Sotomayor said the sports lottery still was successful the three previous months.

"Nobody's even heard of those teams," he said. "So they were just guessing."

Nevertheless, he estimated about 1,500 bets ranging from the minimum of 10 pesos (48 cents U.S.) to as much as \$570 U.S., were



placed with his agency during that period.

Sotomayor said persons playing the sports lottery do so on a computer punch card, similar to those used in voting, in which the outcomes of 13 games are predicted — home team winning, visitors winning or a tie. The cost for the initial punch is 48 cents.

A bettor can improve his odds by punching additional holes on any and all of the 13 games, but the cost for each additional punch increases in multiples of two.

A grand prize is offered for perfect selection of all 13 soccer games and it increases each week there is no winner.

In the event there is more than

one winning card, the top prize will be split among the winners, he said.

So far, no one in Ciudad Juarez has won the grand prize, but some have made 12 correct choices, Sotomayor said. In all of Mexico, three persons so far have posted perfect choices and won about \$67,000 each, he said.

Judge erred, court rejects sentences

United Press International
AUSTIN — The Court of Criminal Appeals has overturned two life sentences given a Dallas woman for shooting her husband and a cocktail waitress, ruling the trial judge erred in failing to instruct the jury it could consider voluntary manslaughter charges.

Trial testimony showed Nicolena Medlock had gone to the private club Feb. 6, 1975, to meet her son and daughter-in-law. She was sitting at a table with the club manager and her daughter-in-law when her husband walked in and stood nearby, staring at her.

Medlock approached his wife and told her he didn't want some money she had left for him, and then retreated. Thirty minutes later, Medlock again approached his wife, grabbed her by the neck and said, "Let's go. I'm going to get you."

Mrs. Medlock pulled away and began shooting. Two shots hit Medlock and one bullet hit a waitress, Yvett Harris, killing both of them.

The court ruled the issue of voluntary manslaughter had been raised and the trial judge should have considered it, since Mrs. Medlock had sufficient proof that she feared her husband.

The court also Wednesday overturned the capital murder conviction of a Waco man because the trial judge erred in not scheduling a hearing on the defendant's motion for a change of venue.

Charles Eugene O'Brien was convicted for the Jan. 3, 1978, strangulation death of Mamie Witt.

At a pretrial hearing on April 20, 1978, O'Brien filed a motion for a change of venue, but the trial judge elected to carry the motion along pending jury selection. On May 30, after the jury had been selected, the judge overruled the change of venue motion.

The state argued that O'Brien had abandoned his motion because it was not urged until after the jury was selected. But the criminal appeals court said O'Brien had properly filed the motion and was following the trial judge's instructions by not pressing for the motion until jury selection was begun.

The criminal appeals court also reversed a 15-year sentence given Richard Apodaca of El Paso for voluntary manslaughter in the Jan. 12, 1975, death of Edward Figueroa. Apodaca was riding in a car driven by John Lewis that was chasing Figueroa. Apodaca hit Figueroa's vehicle with a tire tool as Lewis pulled up beside Figueroa. Lewis then rammed Figueroa's truck, which hit an embankment, killing Figueroa.

The court said Apodaca's conviction was defective because he was held criminally responsible for Lewis' acts in causing the wreck. The court also said although Apodaca contributed to Figueroa's death, Lewis was the "primary actor" in the case.

Security eased as attorneys look for jury

United Press International
BROWNSVILLE — Jury selection was recessed Thursday in the trial of two Houston area men accused of plotting to kill the husband of one defendant's ex-wife.

District Judge Darrell Hester Wednesday ordered jury selection recessed until Friday in the trial of Archie Herman Burkhalter, 51, and Scott David Minnick, 21.

Burkhalter and Minnick are accused of plotting to kill John

Hensley, 40, who was shot through the eyes and blinded by a .223-caliber bullet fired by a sniper outside his South Padre Island condominium on Feb. 15.

Prosecution and defense attorneys were thought to be nearing completion of their qualifying of a 32-member panel, from which each side will strike 10 names.

Hester earlier Wednesday slightly relaxed security at the courthouse by removing four armed marksmen from the roof,

after one or more of his fellow district judges complained that their presence created a "circus-like atmosphere."

The indictment alleges that Burkhalter — a wealthy Pasadena physician who formerly was married to Hensley's wife, Laurita — offered \$15,000 and a new Cadillac to have Hensley killed. S.J. Wilburn, 56, Minnick's uncle, was sentenced to life imprisonment in July after a Brownsville jury convicted him as the hired gunman in the shoot-

ing.

Hensley at the time was scheduled to testify against Burkhalter in a kidnapping trial in which he allegedly spirited his ex-wife from Hensley's home to his Pasadena hospital on Oct. 13, 1978.

During questioning of the 60-member jury panel Wednesday, Houston attorney Bob Heath indicated he may not call any witnesses or put on any evidence in Minnick's behalf when testimony begins.

Professor's killer gets life

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — A judge Wednesday sentenced a second man to life imprisonment for the slaying of Trinity University journalism professor Bill Hays.

Judge John Benavides assessed the life term in 187th District Court for Carl St. Anthony, 27, who pleaded guilty to a murder charge.

Prosecutors agreed to drop a capital murder indictment against St. Anthony in the plea bargain.

Earlier, Benavides had sentenced a companion of St. Anthony, admitted male prostitute Loyd Myers, 22, to a life prison term in a similar plea bargain arrangement.

Hays was found beaten and stabbed to death at his bachelor apartment Feb. 15.

Myers testified that Hays had offered to buy him an automobile if he would live with him and that St. Anthony was upset with his relationship with the professor.

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